



**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
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## **Repeal the Unreasonable “Energy Efficient” Light Bulb Mandate**

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**Background:** The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 contained a provision to phase-out certain incandescent light bulbs and mandate that only those incandescent bulbs that met new mandated energy efficiency standards may be sold in the United States after January 1, 2012.

- **What This Proposal Will Do:** This proposal would repeal the energy efficient incandescent light bulb mandate.
- **Why This Proposal Is Necessary:** The increased efficiency standards that were mandated in effect force consumers and businesses to use specific types of light bulbs chosen by the government. This is not the federal government’s role. Consumers should not be prevented from purchasing certain types of incandescent light bulbs, or be limited to federal standards on energy efficiency.

Many public health and safety [concerns](#) have arisen regarding compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, which are the most common alternative to the incandescent light bulb. For example, if a CFL bulb is broken, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends ventilating the room before cleanup, as well as shutting off the heating/air conditioning system, to limit exposure to the mercury vapor that is released when the bulb breaks. The EPA has dedicated a full webpage to the cleanup of broken CFLs that can be found [here](#). Additionally, a recent Stony Brook University study found that the significant levels of [ultraviolet emissions](#) from compact fluorescent bulbs can cause damage to healthy human skin cells.

**Conclusion:** The federal government should not be using limited resources to micromanage such consumer decisions. While the argument is that consumers capture the savings over traditional incandescent bulbs over time because “energy efficient” bulbs last longer, some of the more advanced bulbs coming on the market will cost more than their counterparts. Lower income individuals should not be prohibited from buying products that might provide their families with a little more breathing room in the household budget.

The federal government should not be in the business of mandating what types of light bulbs Americans must use.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** Several Members have introduced legislation to address this issue. These include Rep. Bachmann’s H.R. 849, and the Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act, Rep. Barton’s H.R. 2417, the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act, as well as Rep. Burgess’s H.Amdt. 678 and H.Amdt. 1210. For more information please contact Rick Eberstadt with the Republican Study Committee at [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov), Katie Poedtke with Rep. Bachmann’s office at [Katie.Poedtke@mail.house.gov](mailto:Katie.Poedtke@mail.house.gov), or Michael Weems with Rep. Barton’s office at [Michael.Weems@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.Weems@mail.house.gov).

If you would like to participate in the RSC Repeal Task Force, please email [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov).

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